

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Brendan's NS, Eyrecourt is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](#), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#), [the Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St. Brendan's NS has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 (Revised 2023) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is *Ms. Éilis Treacy*
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is *Ms. Aisling McGettigan*
- 4 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE website.
 - In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the [National Vetting Bureau \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\) Acts 2012 to 2016](#) and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the DE website.
 - In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
 - In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
 - In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
 - All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
 - In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DE website or will be made available on request by the school.
- Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 7 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 17/10/23 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 17/10/23 [most recent review date].

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Eilis Treacy
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 17/10/23

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Brendan's NS, Eyrecourt.

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST training PDST Child Protection online course to be completed by all staff. BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors Glass in window
Toilet Areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy
Students carrying messages for teachers from one classroom to another	Inappropriate behaviour	Clear and specific instructions and kept to a minimum. Younger pupils sent in pairs. Outside doors locked to prevent unauthorised access.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival confined to the top yard of the school and dismissal supervised by Teachers
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm from other pupils or visitors to the school	One teacher on yard duty each day. Pupils not allowed access yard until teacher is standing on the yard. Pupils play in areas visible to the teacher at the back of the school. Visitors must access the school via the main door and report to the office or staffroom.

Sporting activities in school	Harm from other pupils or staff when changing or preparing for sport	Shorts worn to school under tracksuit bottoms. Only socks and boots need to be changed and all pupils can quickly change together on the corridor or outside their classroom exit door.
Sporting activities out of school	Harm from other pupils or from pupils and adults in other schools	Adequate supervision at all matches and games. Note to parents re travelling to match. Bus hired and teacher and coach in attendance.
Swimming	Harm from other pupils, teachers or public.	Pre-arranged schedule with changing area reserved for school only. Parents volunteering to help to inform school in advance and to assist own children or children whose parents have given written permission to school. Siblings to share cubicles where appropriate. Two pupils of same gender and similar age to share cubicles. Teachers to supervise outside the cubicles and showers. As the majority of children are changed, one teacher to wait in lobby with them.
School Outings	Harm from other pupils and strangers	Adequate supervision at all times. Bus hired with two teachers in attendance. Venue of outing assessed in advance and deemed appropriate and safe for pupils.
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm from other pupils or teachers.	Yard injury: pupil accompanied by two other pupils to staffroom. Pupil treated by teacher on corridor with other pupils in attendance. Classroom treatment: pupil treated in class and if needs further care outside at the sink, another pupil also comes with the teacher and sick/injured pupil.
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers SNA's Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners Sports coaches External Tutors/Guest Speakers Volunteers/Parents in school activities 	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Policy of Parents / Volunteers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 		Policy on Visiting Contractors
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Visiting Eyrecourt Library	Harm from strangers	Adequate supervision at all times. Visits pre-arranged with librarian. Public aware of school visit and adult users of the library not permitted to stay during the school session.
Visiting Eyrecourt Church for sacramental preparation and practices	Harm from other pupils and strangers.	Practice time pre-arranged with parish priest. Adequate supervision in church. Pupils seated together and any visitors to the church encouraged to use another part of the church. Pupils always in the teachers' line of vision. Any pupil using the bathroom to be accompanied by another pupil.

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post- Primary Schools 2017 (Revised 2023)*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.